

Put The Public Option Up For A Vote

Now that the Democratic Congress has declared its intention to pass the health care bill at least in part by a corrective reconciliation bill, there is no longer any EXCUSE why the people cannot have a vote on including a truly robust public option.

We the people demand at least two up or down votes.

1) First, a vote on the proposal to expand Medicare to age 55, which we were told in December could not happen because of the opposition of Joe Lieberman standing alone as a road block. Since reconciliation requires 51 votes only, there is no longer any valid reason why this cannot be done.

2) Second, a vote on giving anyone of any age the OPTION of buying into Medicare if they choose. Certainly nobody can argue that Medicare would not benefit from the influx of new premiums to keep it solvent, and with Medicare's lower overhead their premiums would be less all other things being equal.

Any Congress that is unwilling to even put up for a vote good public policy ideas like the above will not retain their seats for long.